(b) to (d) To provide better protection to the consumers and for speedy and inexpensive redressal for consumer grievances, the Government has brought into force the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. Several steps have been taken to ensure that the statutory institutions envisaged in the Act are set up on priority basis. In this connection, meetings have been held with the Food Ministers and senior officers of States/UT Administrations. The matter has been pursued vigorously through several letters, telexes, telegrams, etc. The Central Government is in process of setting up the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. For this purpose, the appointment of the President of the National Commission has been made. Some States have already finalised actions for establishing the redressal machinery under the Act. The Central Government is very keen that the redressal machinery is made functional in States/UTs. For this purpose, the implementation of the Consumer Protection Act is being closely pursued, co-ordinated and monitored.

Representation from the Physically Handicapped

*357. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry have recently received any representation regarding the problems of the physically handicapped persons and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) and (b) Representations from physically handicapped continue to be received in this Ministry and relate generally to problems regarding facilities for overcoming the disability, education, vocational training, employment, etc. The National Institutes are expected to function as apex organisations in their respective areas of disability. A Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Babrul Islam, M.P., to suggest legislative measurts. Services and aids and appliances are arranged for the physically handicapped through voluntary organisations to supplement the efforts made by State Governments.

Promotion of Construction of Mud Houses by the HUDCO

*358. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) is promoting the construction of mud houses in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether the HUDCO is exploring the possibilty of constructing mud houses in the urban areas also?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) to (c) Mud is a low cost building material, which has been traditionally used and is still being used in the construction of houses in different parts of the country, wherever it is easily available. HUDCO is promoting the adoption and use of low cost building materials and technologies for housing construction.

With a view to focussing attention on the use of mud as a low cost building material and the traditional construction methods with due upgradation and improvement, the HUDCO had organised an International Conference on 'Mud Architecture' in Trivandrum in November, 1987, in collaboration with other agencies concerned, followed by a Symposium in New Delhi.

HUDCO has recently sanctioned loan assistance to one urban housing scheme for the housing of weavers in Maheshwar (Madhva Pradesh), wherein the walls of houses to be constructed with low cost technology will be of compact mud blocks stabilised with lime. HUDOC will also a providing two mud-compacting machines for use in this housing project and subsequently in other project.

HUDCO will assist in the implementation of the programme of setting up a national network of Nirman or Nirmithi Kendras country, which will, *inter alia*, provide easy access to locally relevant low cost building materials and techniques including mud construction.

*359. [*Transferred to the 24th March*, 1988.]

Revamping of the SAIL

*360. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any inquiry so far into the working of the SAIL; if so, what is the nature of irregularities detected;

(b) whether Government propose to take any steps to revamp the SAIL to improve its functioning; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR) : (a) No specific irregularities in the working of SAIL have come to the notice of Government necessitating an enquiry.

(b) and (c) The performance of SAIL is reviewed regularly and where necessary directions are given for steps to improve the performance.

Cadbury's Apple Concentrate Plant

@2405. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for which Cadbury shut down their Plant manufacturing apple concentrate in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) what was the export commitment made by Cadbury regarding the export of apple concentrate and how much was exported?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) M/s. Cadbury (I) Ltd. (later on changed to Hindustan Coco Products Ltd.) decided to close the Apple Juice Concentrate Plant in Jammu & Kashmir with effect from 20th September, 1983 due to uneconomic operation and accumulation of losses during the last 3 years of its operation.

(b) The industrial licence issued on 14-6-79 in favour of M/s. Cadbury (I) Ltd., Bombay (later on changed to Hindustan Coco Products Ltd.) stipulated that the Company should export apple juice concentrate for a total F.O.B. value of Rs. 44 lakhs over a period of 5 years or for a total F.O.B. value equivalent to the total amount of foreign exchange spent by them on import of capital goods, raw materials etc., whichever was greater. During 1981 and 1982, Apple Juice Concentrate worth Rs. 87 lakhs were exported. After the closure of the plant in September, 1983, the undisposed stocks worth Rs. 38.57 lakhs were exported during 1984.

Performance of IRDP

2406. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance is given to the poor under the Integrated Rural Development Programme;

(b) whether Government have fixed any revised line of poverty;

(c) whether the findings by the twenty-seven independent reputed research units into the performance of IRDP are satisfactory; and

@Previously Unstarred Question 1972 transferred from the 14th March, 1988.